(b) Does not arise

Social Security for senior citizens in the country

568. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Central Committee of Pensioner's Association has urged Government for formulation of the National pension policy to ensure social security for senior citizens in the country;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring a legislation or propose to replace the Pension Act, 1871 by a Pension-cum-Social Security Act to reflect the pension policy for India; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) At present there is no proposal to replace the Pension Act, 1871.

Shifting of head office of south eastern Railways from Calcutta to Bhubaneswar

569. SHRI KAHNU CHARAN LENKA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Orissa has requested the Central Government to shift the Head Office of South-Eastern Railways from Calcutta to Bhubaneswar;

whether Government have examined the said proposal, and

(c) if so, by when the said Head Office is likely to be shifted?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Keeping in view the administrative and operational requirements, likely dislocation to a large number of staff and severe financial constraints, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government at present to shift the Headquarters of South Eastern Railway from Calcutta.

Non-availability of essential commodities in Himachal Pradesh

570. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any report about the grim situation in tribal areas of Himachal Pradesh due to non-availability of essential commodities, including foodgrains, edible oil, pulses, salt etc; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Functioning of Alarm chains in Trains

571. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the alarm chains hardly function in most of the trains; and

(b) whether it is a fact that alarm chain was not functioning in the ill-fated 383 Up Mokameh-Arrah shuttle train which had a fire recently?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) In some nominated trains Alarm chains have been blanked off to avoid is misuse.